

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LIBREV 00529 301824Z

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 AID-20 OMB-01 DRC-01 PC-10 XMB-07 CAB-09

COME-00 DOTE-00 EB-11 FAA-00 TRSE-00 FEA-02 IGA-02

AEC-11 SCI-06 INT-08 EUR-25 (ISO) W

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FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5380

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, GB/US

SUBJ: PRESIDENT BONGO'S TRIP TO NEW YORK: BILATERAL ISSUES

1. ASIDE FROM DC-8 ISSUE, WHICH IS SUBJECT SEPTELS, I HAD IMPRESSION GATHERED FROM GABONESE REACTIONS THAT OTHER BILATERAL ISSUES PROGRESSED SATISFACTORILY.

2. I WAS, UNFORTUNATELY, IN WASHINGTON SEEING PRESIDENT CASEY OF EXIMBANK (AT BONGO'S REQUEST), DISCUSSING MANY PEACE CORPS ISSUES (AT PEACE CORPS REQUEST), TALKING TO COMMERCE AND AID (AT REQUEST COMMERCE AND AID) ABOUT RAILROAD MATTERS, AND PARTICIPATING IN THREE DC-8 MEETINGS DURING TWO DAYS BONGO SPENT IN NEW YORK SEEING AID, LOCKHEED, SWIFTSHIPS, PANAM, TEMPLESMAN, SEVERAL BANKS, AND POSSIBLY OTHER U.S. FIRMS.

2. TO DATE, EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED NO MEMCONS OR DEBRIEFINGS FROM ANY U.S. SOURCE ON ANY OF THE ABOVE MEETINGS IN NEW YORK.

3. IN SUBSEQUENT TALKS I HAVE HAD WITH PRESIDENT BONGO,
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PAGE 02 LIBREV 00529 301824Z

RAWIRI, MOUKAMBI AND OTHERS, THEY SEEM SATISFIED WITH ALL

OF THE ABOVE MEETINGS (EXCEPT DC-8). IN REPLY TO A QUESTION OF MINE, MOUKAMBI SAID DEALS WITH LOCKHEED AND SWIFTSHIPS PROGRESSING SATISFACTORILY AND HE HAD NO REQUEST TO MAKE OF ME IN THESE MATTERS. REGARDING PANAM, I HAVE SINCE LEARNED FROM BONGO AND PANAM THAT DISCUSSION CENTERED ON PANAM PROVIDING MANAGEMENT CONTRACT FOR AN INTERNATIONAL AIR GABON YET TO BE CREATED. DECISION THAT GABON WILL WITHDRAW FROM AIR AFRIQUE AT SOME POINT IN FUTURE NOW IRREVOCABLE AND SURELY KNOWN TO AIR AFRIQUE. TIMING MAY BE SLIGHTLY ACCELERATED AS RESULT GABON'S RECENT OIL BONANZA. PANAM DEFINITELY INTERESTED.

4. WITH REGARD TO AID, GABONESE ANXIOUS TO HAVE AID UP ITS CONTRIBUTION FROM FIVE TO 10 MILLION DOLLARS IN VIEW OF RISING WORLD PRICES. GOG ALSO VERY DESIROUS THAT DOCUMENT PLEDGING AID CONTRIBUTION TO ROADS BE SIGNED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. INASMUCH AS GABONESE SEEM SATISFIED WITH AID MEETING IN NEW YORK I CAN ONLY SPECULATE THAT SPENCER, WHILE MAKING NO COMMITMENTS, SOUNDED ENCOURAGING TO GABONESE EARS. I HOPE THAT THIS WILL NOT LEAD TO SUBSEQUENT MISUNDERSTANDINGS.

5. TEMPLESMAN APPARENTLY SECURED FOR HIS CLIENTS (UNION CARBIDE?) OPTION ON 25 PERCENT OF CURRENT GABONESE URANIUM PRODUCTION AND POSSIBILITY OF EXPLORATION CONCESSION FOR OTHER MINERALS. PRESIDENT BONGO ALSO TOLD ME THAT HE WANTED MORRISON-KNUDSEN TO PARTICIPATE IN SOME FASHION IN TRANSGABON RAILROAD AND INSTRUCTED RAWIRI TO PROVIDE ME WITH DOCUMENTS RELATING TO CONVERSATIONS WITH EUROPEAN CONSORTIUM. FORTUNATELY, MY OWN RELATIONS WITH BONGO HAVE SO FAR REPEAT SO FAR REMAINED EXCELLENT.

6. EMBASSY WOULD GREATLY APPRECIATE RECEIVING MEMCONS OR DEBRIEFINGS OF ANY OF NEW YORK CONVERSATIONS WHICH ARE AVAILABLE DEPARTMENT.
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